Overcharging on Life Saving Drugs

1316. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the relation between the prices of bulk drugs and that paid by consumers in retail market for life saving drugs;

(b) how it is ensured that the reduction in prices of bulk drugs percolates to consumers; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to protect the interests of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The retail prices of Scheduled formulations are calculated in accordance with a formula as explained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the PCO, 1987, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) According to paragraph 9(2) of DPCO, 1987 where the Government fixes or revises the price of any bulk drug and a manufacturer utilises such bulk drug in his formulations, he is required to make an application to the Government for price revision within 30 days time. In order to ensure that the benefit of reduced price of bulk drug percolates to the consumers, Government revises the prices of ceiling packs of concerned formulations, on *suo-moto* basis in consultation with BICP.

Adverse Impact on Fertilizer Manufacturing Units

1317. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govement have made any assessment of the adverse impact on the fertilizer manufacturing units in the country by the withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers and total decontrol of Ammonium Sulphate, Chloride and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with the sharp rise in the inputs and production cost, Government propose to consider the question of maintaining the selling prices of fertilizers at a level so that the manufacturers fetch an economical price; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Subsidy on fertilizers has not been withdrawn, except in the case of some low analysis fertilizers, namely, Ammonium Sulphate, Ammonium Chloride and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, as also Sulphate Potash which is wholly imported. Some of the manufactures of de-controlled fertilizers have reported that they would suffer financially in the free market situation. Since most of these manufacturers of low analysis fertilizers also produce other fertilizers which are not de-controlled or chemicals (on which there is no control) as a by-product or co-product, it is too early to assess that they would suffer wholly on account of de-control of low analysis fertilizers.

(c) and (d) Since the consumer prices of controlled fertilizers are subsidized, the manufacturers are ensured a fair return under the Retention Price-*cum*-Subsidy Scheme, including compensation for increases in the input and production costs as per a formula based on a combination of certain norms and actuals.

Raising Capacity of Gas Based Fertilizer Units

1318. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise the standard capacity of

the new generation gas-based fertilizer units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the production of fertilizers would be increased and import of fertilizers would be minimised; and

(d) what effective steps Government propose to take to boost production of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) There is no proposal to raise the standard capacity of gas-based fertilizer plants. However, some proposals have been received for doubling the capacities of existing standard sized plants.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A few projects have been provisionally identified for implementation during the period 1992-93 to 1996-97. With the implementation of these projects the estimated production is expected to increase from estimated 73.5 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 26.50 lakh tonnes of Phosphates in 1991-92 to 111.50 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 38.00 lakh tonnes of Phosphates in 1996-97.

Official Aparatus to Handle Money due for Payment to Bhopal Gas Victims

1319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "No apparatus for Bhopal victims" which appeared in *the Hindustan Times* of 8th October, 1991;

(b) whether there is no proper official apparatus yet to handle the money and determine the amount of compensation due for payment in each case on account of which Bhopal Gas victims are subjected to further agony; and

(c) if so, what steps Central Government propose to take to streamline the official apparatus system to handle money etc., for the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Adjudication of claims and distribution of compensation is to be carried out under the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme, 1985. The Scheme, *inter alia*, provides for a Welfare Commissioner with appropriate assistance to undertake the process of adjudication and compensation. The Welfare Commissioner is in place and the process of adjudication should commence by the 3rd February, 1992, the date which the Supreme Court has fixed for commencement of the process.

नई उर्वरक नीति के विरुद्ध प्रत्यावेदन

1320. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार को नई उर्वरक नीति के विरुद्ध रसायनिक उर्वरकों के विनिर्माताओं से कोई प्रत्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ हैं और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिन्ता मोहन): (क) और (ख) कुछ उर्वरक निर्माताओं ने 25-7-91 से नियंत्रण-मुक्त किये गये कुछ निम्न विश्लेषित उर्वरकों और उसी तारीख से सिंगल सूपर फास्टेट उर्वरक के मामले में लगायी गयी आर्थिक सहायता सीमा के खिलाफ अभ्यावेदन दिए है। चूंकि उपरोक्त नीति परिवर्तन अभी हाल ही में किए गए हैं इसलिए इस समय इन मदों का उत्पादन करने एककों के [illegible] वाले [illegible] पर उनके प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन करना अपरिपक्व होगा।